

TIPS IN THE EVENT HURRICANE IRENE ARRIVES TO OUR AREA

Good Evening All,

Please share with neighbors and friends.

BEFORE THE STORM

Make sure your windows are protected and your home is secured.

Have an emergency kit with non-perishable food, water, flashlights, battery-operated radio and extra batteries, lanterns, canned fuel, matches, and first aid. If applicable, have enough prescription drugs, pet food, and baby-care items. Have identification and documentation ready to grab. Keep Social Security information; birth certificates; home, car, and life insurance files; and other important documents in a water-proof file box.

Clean containers for cleaning water. Line the bathtub with plastic sheeting or a clean shower curtain, or caulk the drain with silicone caulking — it holds water for weeks and cleans up easily when dry. Plan on three gallons per person, per day for all uses (including flushing the toilet).

Before a storm hits, unplug TVs, DVD/ VCR players, microwave oven, and computers to protect them from power surges and lightning strikes.

Make sure **PEPCO** has your current phone number to expedite outage reporting and restoration. Associate a cell phone number with your account.

Report Outage - 1-877-737-3632

Report Downed Wires - 202-872-3432

DURING THE STORM

Howling winds, driving rain and the threat of tornadoes make riding out a hurricane a scary ordeal. Follow these tips for staying safe in your home during a hurricane:

Stay inside and away from windows, skylights and glass doors. Find a safe area in your home (an interior room, a closet or bathroom on the lower level).

If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker.

If you lose power, turn off major appliances such as the air conditioner and water heater to reduce damage. Do not use electrical appliances, including your computer.

Do not go outside. If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force and will come from the opposite direction. Also, do not go outside to see "what the wind feels like." It is too easy to be hit by flying debris.

Beware of lightning. Stay away from electrical equipment. Don't use the phone or take a bath/shower during the storm.

AFTER THE STORM

Typically, more deaths occur after a hurricane than during. These deaths come from people being too anxious to get outside and survey the damage where they come into contact with downed power lines or unstable trees, etc. Follow these suggestions for staying safe after the hurricane:

Remain indoors until an official "all clear" is given.

Do not touch fallen or low-hanging wires of any kind under any circumstances. Stay away from puddles with wires in/near them.

Do not touch trees or other objects in contact with power lines.

USE PHONES ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES. Call 911 only for life-threatening situations.

Call police or utility companies immediately to report hazards such as downed power lines, broken gas or water mains, overturned gas tanks, etc.

Watch for weakened roads, bridges, tree limbs or porches which could collapse unexpectedly.

After power is restored, check refrigerated food for spoilage. (Spoiled food is the cause of much sickness two days to a week after the storm.)

When reinstalling a CB, TV or satellite antenna, check in all directions to be sure no power lines are nearby. The same goes for climbing trees to clear debris.

Do not operate charcoal grills, propane camping stoves or generators indoors.